

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE (37 CFR 1.8)**

Applicant(s): Masashi NAKASHITA et al.

Docket No.

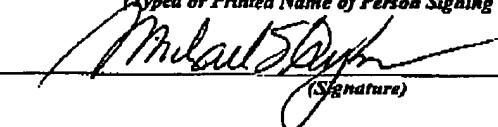
121027-0194

Application No.  
10/602,960Filing Date  
June 24, 2003Examiner  
Ling XuGroup Art Unit  
1775

Invention:

**WATER ABSORBENT STRUCTURE AND PROCESS FOR MAKING THE SAME****RECEIVED  
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I hereby certify that this Response to Restriction Requirement  
*(Identify type of correspondence)*  
is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. 571-273-8300)  
on February 6, 2006  
*(Date)*

Michael S. Gzybowski*(Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)*  
(Signature)

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Appl. No. 10/602,960  
Response Dated February 6, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2006

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FEB 06 2006

**PATENT APPLICATION**

*IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE*

*Group* Art Unit: 1775

*Attorney*  
*Docket No.:* 121027-0194

*Applicants:* Masashi NAKASHITA et al.

*Invention:* WATER-ABSORBENT STRUCTURE AND PROCESS FOR MAKING THE SAME

*Serial No.:* 10/602,960

*Filed:* 06/24/2003

*Examiner:* Ling Xu

Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(b)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile on the date indicated below.

on February 6, 2006

Michael S. Gajbowitsch

## **RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

**Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 4, 2006, applicants submit the following:

In the Office Action of January 4, 2006 the Examiner has required applicants to election between the following allegedly patentably distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a product, classified in class 428, subclass 116; and
  - II. Claims 9-12, drawn to a method, classified in class 264, subclass 630

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby elect the invention of claims 1-8 (Group I) to be examined in the present application.

Applicants preserve their right to seek patent protection of the non-elected claims (9-12) by filing a divisional patent application during the pendency of the present application.

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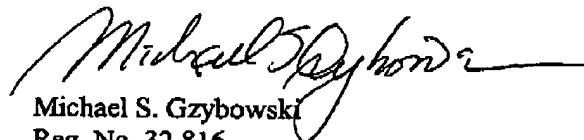
Entry of applicants' election and an early examination of the application are requested.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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